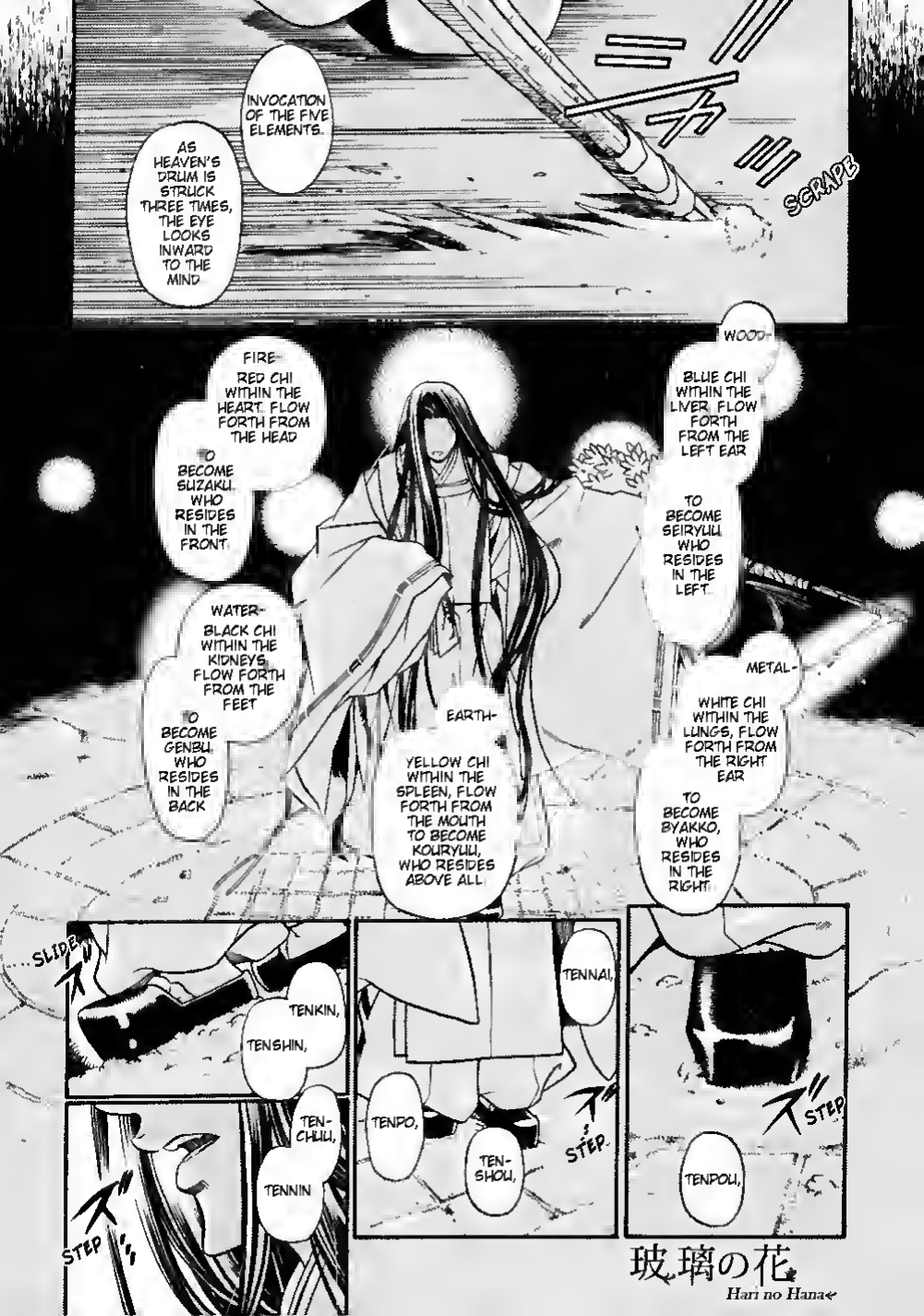
hari no hana-
quartz flowers, chapter 08

inariya fusanosuke

translation & graphics:
chou & friends

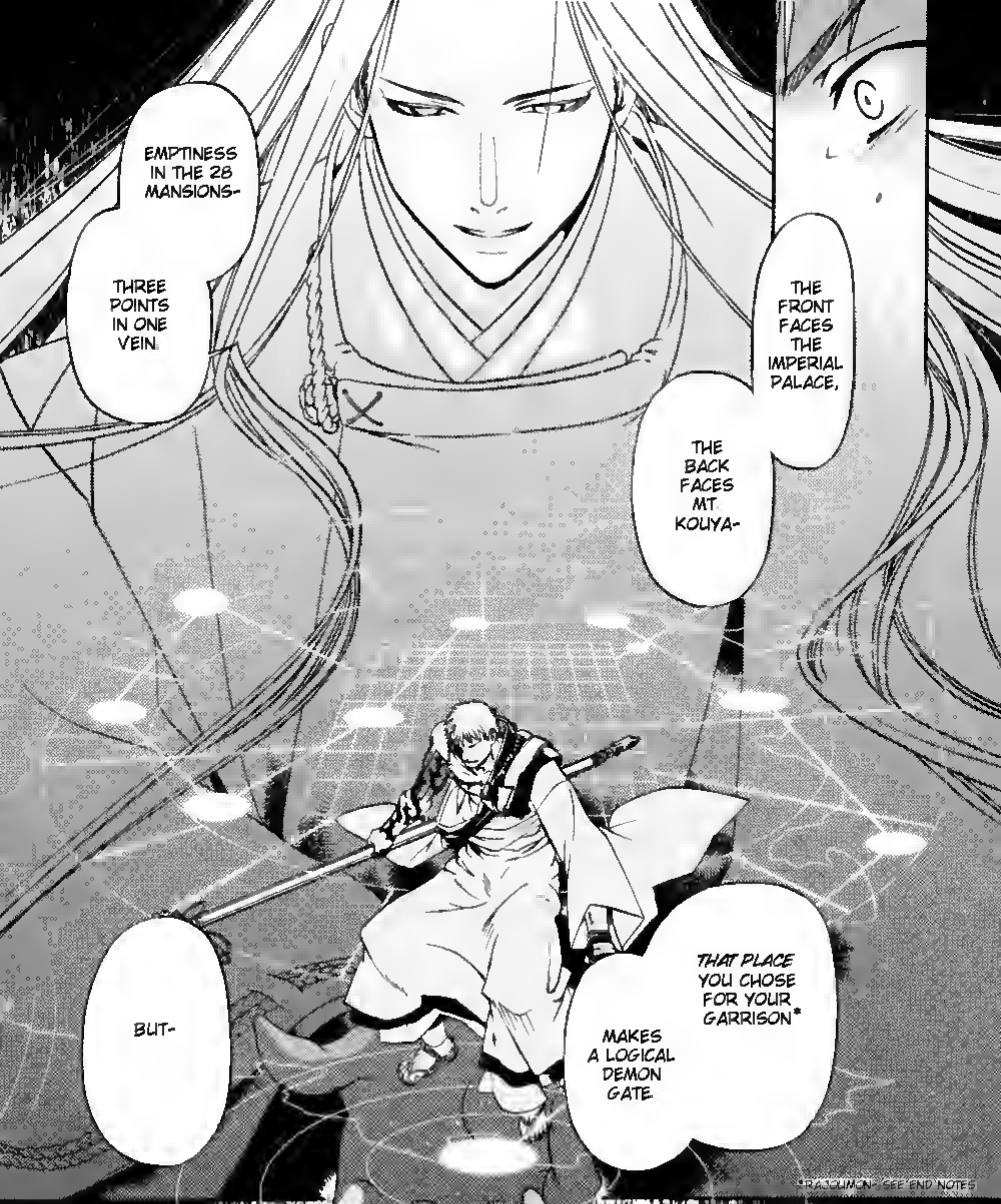

AS HEAVEN'S DRUM IS STRUCK THREE TIMES, THE EYE LOOKS INWARD TO THE MIND
INVOCATION OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS.
SCRAPE
WOOD-
BLUE CHI WITHIN THE LIVER, FLOW FORTH FROM THE LEFT EAR
TO BECOME SEIRYUU, WHO RESIDES IN THE LEFT.
FIRE-
RED CHI WITHIN THE HEART, FLOW FORTH FROM THE HEAD
TO BECOME SUZAKU, WHO RESIDES IN THE FRONT.
METAL-
WHITE CHI WITHIN THE LUNGS, FLOW FORTH FROM THE RIGHT EAR
TO BECOME BYAKKO, WHO RESIDES IN THE RIGHT.
WATER-
BLACK CHI WITHIN THE KIDNEYS, FLOW FORTH FROM THE FEET
TO BECOME GENBU, WHO RESIDES IN THE BACK
EARTH-
YELLOW CHI WITHIN THE SPLEEN, FLOW FORTH FROM THE MOUTH TO BECOME KOURYUU, WHO RESIDES ABOVE ALL.
SLIDE
TENKIN,
TENSHIN,
TEN-CHUU,
TENNIN
STEP
TENNAI,
TENPO,
TEN-SHOU,
STEP
STEP
TENPOU,

Douman vs. Seimei
The real battle begins-
WHOOSH
KANJOU.
Quartz Flowers
はりのはな
玻璃の花
FUSANOSUKE INARIYA PRESENTS
稲荷家房之介
第8話
THE GATES OF HEAVEN COME TO BE OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.
THE GATES OF HEAVEN OPEN OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.
THE GATES OF HEAVEN DRAW NEAR.
MAY THEY BE REMOVED ABSOLUTELY.
MAY THE NINE ROADS BE BLOCKED.
SHOULD ANY GIVE CHASE AND PURSUE ME,

このお話は
時は長和三年、山城の国、平安京。貴族たちの描いた王朝文化は爛熟の極みにあったが、山来天皇と藤原道長の対立は決定的となり、政は著しく滑り乱れていた。獣の刻印を持つ下法師、芦屋道満は術者の始末に従事するが、その前に清明の陰が立ちはだかる。そんな折、瑞慧阿闍梨の身に異変を感じた道満は瑞慧の居場所を探り、久々の再会を果たす。しかし、清明の力はすぐそこまで迫っており!?

SUZAKU, BEFORE ME, REPEL ALL DISPUTE.
SLIDE
GENBU, AT MY BACK, REPEL THE TEN THOUSAND DEMONS.
light
BYAKKO, TO MY RIGHT, REPEL INAUSPICIOUSNESS.
light
SEIRYUU, TO MY LEFT, REPEL THE TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS.
light
COME TO MY AID
light
light
light
WHAT THE..!?
DAMN...
STARTLE
FWOOM

MAY THEIR FEET BE LAID WASTE.
STAB
THOSE WHO COME WALKING,
WHIP


EMPTINESS IN THE 28 MANSIONS-
THREE POINTS IN ONE VEIN.
THE FRONT FACES THE IMPERIAL PALACE,
THE BACK FACES MT. KOUYA-
BUT-
THAT PLACE YOU CHOSE FOR YOUR GARRISON*
MAKES A LOGICAL DEMON GATE.
*TRADITIONAL. SEE END NOTES.

"KNOWING THE ENEMY'S LOCATION, ATTACK HIS POSITION."
TWIST
BADUMP
!
WOBBLE
SMACK
"IN SEARCH OF HIS SPIRITUAL POWER,
SEIZE HIS SOUL."
BADUMP
SHIT!
GRIND
WHOOSH

IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST A STRAY DOG-
NOTHING BUT AN UNTAUGHT OUTSIDER
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD MATCH ME?

THUNK
I WONDER WHAT THE THING LEFT OVER WILL BE...
WHEN YOUR SELF HAS BEEN EATEN AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS,
SUU...

EH...
JUST NOW,
DID SOMEONE-
RUMBLE

憧憬の花
FORTGEFAHREN

Hari
no
Hana

-Imperial Court-

HALF BROTHER & SISTER (DIFFERENT MOTHERS)

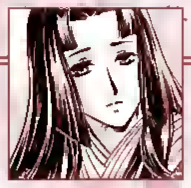
FUJIWARA NO MICHINAGA, MINISTER OF THE LEFT

FUJIWARA NO NORIMICHI

(COLLABORATING WITH MINSTER OF THE RIGHT)

(PRESSURING EMPEROR TO ABDICATE)

FUJIWARA NO KANSHI



CROWN PRINCE ATSUAKIRA

EMPEROR SANJOU

FATHER & SON

ONONOMIYA SANESUKE, MINISTER OF THE RIGHT

(LOYAL TO SANJOU, HATES MICHINAGA)

FATHER & SON

FATHER & DAUGHTER

COURTING

TWIN BROTHERS

BROUGHT SUIKEI TO MT. KOUYA AS AN INFANT

PATRON

-Mt. Kouya-

SUIKEI-AJARI, BUDDHIST PRIEST

SAVED DOUMAN AS A CHILD, BECAME A [illegible] CURSE

ASHIYA DOUMAN, BUDDHIST PRIEST

(WORKING FOR MT. KOUYA)

RAISED IN ISOLATION ON MT. KOUYA

MT. KOUYA HEAD PRIEST

-Onmyouji-

SEIMEI'S DEMON MINION

(LADY OF THE COURT)

ENEMIES

KAMO NO YASUNORI, ONMYOUJI

ABE NO SEIMEI, ONMYOUJI

MENTOR & STUDENT

SHIRAZAKU

UNNAMED COWORKERS

UNNAMED COWORKER

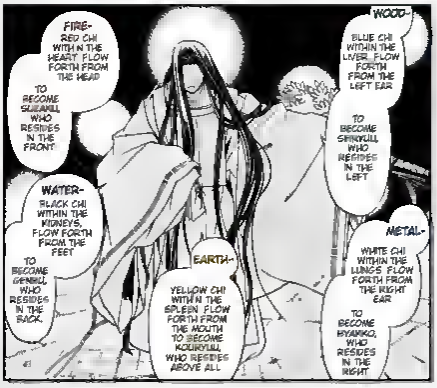
DOUMAN'S COWORKERS

Quartz Flowers

-Character chart-

Quartz Flowers

Translation notes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◆Historical background

Onmyoudou, the form of magic ***Seimei*** practices in **Hari no Hana,** is a RL esoteric philosophy that combines elements of Buddhist, Chinese Taoist, and native Japanese Shinto and folk beliefs.

Seimei himself is based on the historical ***Abe no Seimei*** (925-1001 CE), one of **Onmyoudou's** most important and influential practitioners during the Heian era, the period during which **Hari no Hana** is set.

Ashiya Douman is also thought to have been a real historical figure, a practitioner of Buddhist magic from the same period known for being ***Ahe no Seimei's*** semi-legendary rival. Stories of their rivalry are believed to have arisen from the struggle for court power between government-regulated professional practitioners of **Onmyoudou** (called **onmyouji**) and the influential Shingon school of Buddhism.

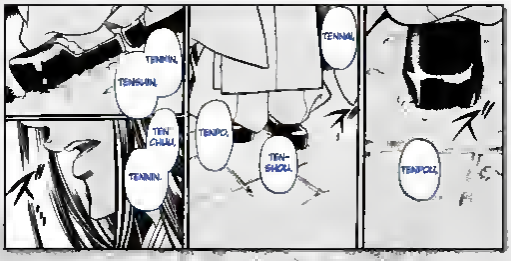
◆Seimei's spell

Seimei's spell in this chapter is excerpted from the Henbai, a historical **Onmyoudou** ritual with roots dating back to 2nd century BCE China. Used in RL in its entirety as a protective ritual prior to travel, Inariya has excerpted and rearranged some of its pieces for ***Seimei*** to use destructively. Even the excerpts have parts missing though- apparently intentionally- so don't try this at home for your own travel and rival-killing needs. ;-)

The first part of ***Seimei's*** spell is the first part of the real Henbai. In it, the **onmyouji** calls on his own internal life energy as representative of the energy that flows through and between all beings. Symbolically split into the five traditional Chinese elements and four directions (plus the center), each part of the split has various health functions and other attributes associated with it, as well as a mythological animal guardian (and a Buddhist diety, which ***Seimei*** doesn't use).

According to wikipedia, art depicting two of the guardian beasts has been found dating as far back as roughly 4000 BCE. The elements, directions, and their correspondences are still used widely today in a variety of practices.

▲ Energy split into five elements with animal guardians



The second part of ***Seimei's*** spell is the heart of the actual Henbai. Used historically for everything from enhancing personal power to banishing demons and communicating with the Gods, this part of the ritual involves symbolically walking the path of the Northern Dipper (known as the Big Dipper in the West).
The words ***Seimei*** chants are the names of the stars.

Quartz Flowers

Translation notes II

◆Douman's Demon Gate

▲ Map of Hari no Hana

Kyoto, known at the time as **Heian-Kyou,** was the capital of Japan during the Heian period. It was laid out on a grid, with the Imperial Palace at the far north end, and **Rajoumon,** the main city gate, at the southern boundary.

Originally a grand symbolic entrance to the capital, by the time of **Hari no Hana, Rajoumon** had fallen into ruin, becoming a meeting place for criminals and a dumping ground for unwanted babies and the dead.

Douman makes it his base of operations in chapter one, hinting at its utility for him when he says it reminds him of **Adashino,** also infamous during the Heian period as a place where corpses were left without burial.

When ***Seimei*** mentions **"Emptiness"** on page 7, he is talking about **Rajoumon.** In traditional Chinese cosmology, the night sky is split up into 28 sections, called the Twenty-eight Mansions. Each Mansion is ruled by a particular constellation, and each constellation has its own symbolic association. **Emptiness** is a constellation in the northern sky associated with ruins and with those who preside over funerals.

Douman chose **Rajoumon** as a base strategically. Full of death and impurity, it's a good place for black magic- a physical **Mansion of Emptiness.** It's also directly between ***Suikei*** and ***Atsuakira,*** the beneficiary of the spell ***Suikei*** is under, and between ***Suikei*** and ***Seimei.*** And although the picture doesn't show it well, **Rajoumon** is northeast of Mt. Kouya, where ***Suikei*** is being held.

From context clues, we can guess that ***Douman*** is at least part-demon, and the northeastern direction is also traditionally known as the **"Demon Gate"**- the place where demons gain entry into the world of humanity.

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THE BACK FACES MT. KOUYA-
BUT-
MAKES A LOGICAL DEMON GATE
THAT PLACE YOU CHOSE FOR YOUR GARRISON.

The upshot ***Douman*** is good at magic and picked an appropriate spot for his effort to get ***Suikei*** back. But ***Seimei,*** who is bragging that he's better, has followed the trail of ***Douman's*** magic back to its source, figured the whole thing out, and thereby has him trapped.

Quartz Flowers

Translation notes III

◆Obligatory disclamer

Unlike ***Seimei*** and ***Douman***, chou et al's magic skillz are nothing to write home about. And our Classical Japanese- which all of ***Seimei's*** spell and much of his bragging is written in- is even worse. So I apologize for the monumental number of errors this chapter is no doubt riddled with. I mentioned already not to try the spell at home, right?

◆Some trouble spots

In the top panel at left, the contextual differences between RL Heian Japan and modern English fiction were beyond our ability to overcome, and for story flow, we had to change the text more than we might have preferred. As best we can tell, it really should say something in between "may their feet swell" and "may they get instant cancerous tumors of the feet". But one of those isn't much of a threat judged on the scale of modern fiction, and the other is impossible to translate gracefully.

And in the pannel at the right, I must admit we couldn't figure out the verb tenses in this bit of Classical trash-talk hardly at all, nor could we find whatever source it is ***Seimei*** is quoting from (assuming it even really exists). So the general idea of the panel should be more of less correct, but the details might be a little fuzzy.

◆Source material

The Henbai:
反閇 (http://www7a.biglobe.ne.jp/~jirihon/juhou/henbai.html)
反閇の文言の読み方 (http://www.sannohedaijingu.jp/wordpress/?p=5243)
The Practice of Bugang, Poul Andersen (in "Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie", Vol. 5, 1989)

Heian Period History, Onmyoudou & Shingon Buddhism:
wikipedia & ja.wikipedia
Heian Period c. 800-1200 (http://facstaff.elon.edu/sullivan/h&ktimes.htm)
Buddhism & Shintoism in Japan, A to Z Photo Dictionary of Japanese Sculpture & Art (http://www.onmarkproductions.com/html/buddhism.shtml)
Shingon Buddhist International Institute (http://www.shingon.org/)
Jiuji (Cross), Takeru Mikami (at http://www.kitombo.com/e/mikami/0924.html)
平安京魔界 M A P (http://homepage2.nifty.com/bu-ra-ri/heiankyoumakai.htm)

-chou (http://choutomaraseru.livejournal.com/)